

the 25th Chief of Naval Operations in April 1994. Prior to his confirmation as Chief of Naval Operations, he commanded all United States and NATO forces in Bosnia. As ranking minority and now Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, I had the opportunity to work closely with Adm. Mike Boorda on many occasions. I found him to be an officer of great professional skill, who instilled confidence and stood as a model of what a dedicated and courageous officer and leader should be.

Admiral Boorda took command of the Navy at a challenging time. His steady hand and firm leadership during a period of great change, a turbulent period of declining force structure and personnel reductions, and his firm commitment to professionalism and operational readiness, have kept the Navy on a steady course and sustained its excellence as a fighting force.

Particularly impressive was the empathy and concern that Adm. Mike Boorda had for those under his command. As a former enlisted sailor, he had a keen appreciation of the hardships of service at sea and family separation that are a part of a sailor's daily existence. He understood their sacrifice and worked extremely hard to ensure the welfare of naval personnel. He never failed to advise me on conditions in the fleet during our frequent meetings. His concern for the quality of life of the men and women in the naval service was remarkable.

During more than 40 years of service to the Navy and to his country, Adm. Mike Boorda made many extraordinary contributions to his country. He was a man of great energy, vision, commitment, and patriotism. He was a man who deserved our gratitude and respect for his service while he lived, and our praise and prayers now that he is gone. We will miss him greatly.

Our thoughts are with his family, his wife Betty, his four children, and his nine grandchildren. They include two sons and one daughter-in-law on active duty in the Navy. We extend our sympathy to them and wish them well.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET

The Senate continued with consideration of the concurrent resolution.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, let me say to fellow Senators there will be additional votes tonight, but we are now trying to work on some aspects of handling this in a more expeditious and orderly manner. We will do that for the

next hour and 30 minutes. There will be no votes before 8 o'clock.

I suggest the absence of a quorum and ask that it be charged to both sides.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADMIRAL BOORDA

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I am saddened, as my colleagues are, by the news we just received about Admiral Boorda's death. His loss is a tragedy for the Navy, the Armed Forces, and for the entire Nation.

Admiral Boorda was an outstanding leader and had the best possible qualifications to be Chief of Naval Operations because he rose through the ranks. He entered the Navy as an enlisted man in 1956. He is the only enlisted person ever to reach that high position.

As ranking member of the Armed Services Subcommittee on Seapower, I had the privilege of working with Admiral Boorda for several years. I had great admiration for his knowledge, skill, leadership and dedication. President Kennedy was a Navy man, too, and he said at the Naval Academy in 1962:

I can imagine a no more rewarding career of any man who may be asked in this century what he did to make his life worthwhile. I think I can respond with a good deal of pride and satisfaction: I served in the U.S. Navy.

Admiral Boorda's life and career exemplify the best in that tradition. I join the Navy and the Nation in mourning its loss, and express my deepest condolences to his wife, Betty, and to his entire family.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time will be equally divided, and the clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADMIRAL BOORDA

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I associate myself with the remarks made by the Senator from Massachusetts, having just recently learned of the tragic death of the Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Boorda. Admiral Boorda was a native of Indiana and had a distinguished military career, rose to the very top as Chief of Naval Operations. As chairman of the Personnel Subcommittee, I had numerous discussions

and meetings with him, so I felt that I got to know him as well as you can in a busy Washington and all the busy activities we are involved in.

I was shocked by the news, deeply saddened by the news, and concerned for his family. While we do not have all the details of his death, I think we all feel the sense of grief that comes with this type of an announcement.

Admiral Boorda came into leadership at a difficult time for the U.S. Navy. Many changes have taken place in the Navy that brought to his desk a number of problems that were difficult problems to deal with. Yet, he did so with skill and did so with great thoroughness and determination to seek a proper solution.

So, Mr. President, I intend to say more later about Admiral Boorda and his career and service to this Nation. But I join with those in saying how shocked and saddened we are with this particular announcement.

I yield the floor.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I may speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEATH OF ADMIRAL BOORDA

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I, too, want to join my Senate colleagues in expressing how profoundly saddened we are about the death of Adm. Mike Boorda, Chief of Naval Operations. He was truly one of the most impressive figures who has ever been selected to serve as Chief of Naval Operations. He rose from the ranks of the enlisted personnel to become an officer, and not only that, but the highest-ranking officer in the U.S. Navy. He brought to that job an enthusiasm for the work, a love for the Navy, and a respect for everyone in the Navy that was unparalleled.

I recall very clearly a visit that I had the good fortune to make with him to the Meridian Naval Air Station in Meridian, MS. He gone down to our State and was visiting other States in the South looking at naval installations. He visited the Pascagoula base on the gulf coast. I was with him in Meridian when, after a tour of the naval air station, he wanted an opportunity to meet with everybody on the air station. So a meeting was called and everyone was invited. All hands were invited to come see the Chief of Naval Operations in the gymnasium there on the base.

He talked to everyone. He had a hand-held mike. He walked out in the middle of the gymnasium, as people were seated in the stands all around. After his remarks, without any notes at all, he took questions and he was asked questions about everything from pay allowance issues, to housing, to the status of some repair contracts on Navy fighter aircraft, to the status of trainers, and how long they would remain in service. He knew something about everything that he was asked

that day, and he handled the questions in a way that showed a genuine respect for each person who asked the question, whether it was an officer, a pilot of an airplane, or an enlisted personnel. He left that place that day with everyone really endeared to him and totally impressed with him as a person and proud to be in the U.S. Navy with his being the highest ranking officer in that Navy.

So it is with deep regret and sadness that we heard today the tragic news of his death. Our condolences go out to his family and to all of those who worked closely with him, because they have to be deeply, deeply saddened by this terrible event. But his legacy will be long remembered and appreciated as an enduring gift of unselfish public service by a person who was a true patriot.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET

The Senate continued with the consideration of the concurrent resolution.

Mr. EXON. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum and ask that the time be charged equally to both sides.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. EXON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. EXON. Mr. President, Senator ROCKEFELLER is here. We are trying to move things along. He is ready to offer an amendment. We had a discussion here a few moments ago. As I understood it, the arrangement would be that there would be no more votes before 8 o'clock, and that, in the meantime, we had agreed to set aside, temporarily, the Exon amendment, which is before the body, to allow other amendments to be offered. I am pleased to see my friend from New Mexico here. Senator ROCKEFELLER is here.

I ask unanimous consent that the Exon amendment be temporarily set aside for the purpose of other people offering amendments. I simply say that, under the rules that are still in effect, it would be the Republican's turn to offer an amendment. If there is no Republican here and ready to offer an amendment, with the approval of the chairman of the committee, we could recognize Senator ROCKEFELLER for his amendment.

Mr. DOMENICI. Reserving the right to object. We have not seen Senator ROCKEFELLER's amendment. We do not know what it applies to, the underlying bill, or what.

Mr. President, I have no objection. I will just ask, since we did this for you last time, you can proceed with the Rockefeller amendment, and then we

will have an amendment. Since we are entitled to go next—

Mr. EXON. I guess I was wrong on that, Mr. President. I was ready to offer an amendment. I would have gone next. Out of deference to the agreement we made, I am not offering that. So I guess the slot really would be on our side. I see nothing wrong if the Senator agrees that Senator ROCKEFELLER will take the place of the Democratic slot I was prepared to take, and then the next amendment will be on your side. Eventually, sometime tonight, we will get back to the Exon amendment that is being temporarily set aside.

Mr. DOMENICI. I have no objection.

Mr. EXON. I yield as much time as is necessary to the Senator from West Virginia for the purpose of offering and explaining the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia is recognized.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. I thank the Chair and the distinguished Senator from Nebraska, and also the chairman of the Budget Committee, for their courtesy.

AMENDMENT NO. 3979

(Purpose: To restore \$50 billion in excessive Medicare cuts designed to pay for new tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans, offset by the extension of expired tax provisions or corporate and business tax reforms; to protect seniors against unjustified increases in premiums and other out-of-pocket costs; to prevent the closing of rural hospitals and other excessive provider cuts that erode access to needed medical services; to prevent the implementation of policies designed to force seniors to give up their own doctors to join private health plans; and to protect Medicare against policies that will cause it to wither on the vine)

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk on behalf of myself, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. DODD, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. WELLSTONE, Mr. FORD, and Mr. EXON.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER), for himself, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. DODD, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. WELLSTONE, Mr. FORD, and Mr. EXON, proposes an amendment numbered 3979.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

On page 3, line 5, increase the amount by \$100,000,000.

On page 3, line 6, increase the amount by \$3,400,000,000.

On page 3, line 7, increase the amount by \$5,900,000,000.

On page 3, line 8, increase the amount by \$9,200,000,000.

On page 3, line 9, increase the amount by \$13,200,000,000.

On page 3, line 10, increase the amount by \$18,700,000,000.

On page 3, line 14, increase the amount by \$100,000,000.

On page 3, line 15, increase the amount by \$3,400,000,000.

On page 3, line 16, increase the amount by \$5,900,000,000.

On page 3, line 17, increase the amount by \$9,200,000,000.

On page 3, line 18, increase the amount by \$13,200,000,000.

On page 3, line 19, increase the amount by \$18,700,000,000.

On page 4, line 8, increase the amount by \$100,000,000.

On page 4, line 9, increase the amount by \$3,400,000,000.

On page 4, line 10, increase the amount by \$5,900,000,000.

On page 4, line 11, increase the amount by \$9,200,000,000.

On page 4, line 12, increase the amount by \$13,200,000,000.

On page 4, line 13, increase the amount by \$18,700,000,000.

On page 4, line 17, increase the amount by \$100,000,000.

On page 4, line 18, increase the amount by \$3,400,000,000.

On page 4, line 19, increase the amount by \$5,900,000,000.

On page 4, line 20, increase the amount by \$9,200,000,000.

On page 4, line 21, increase the amount by \$13,200,000,000.

On page 4, line 22, increase the amount by \$18,700,000,000.

On page 29, line 10, increase the amount by \$100,000,000.

On page 29, line 11, increase the amount by \$100,000,000.

On page 29, line 17, increase the amount by \$3,400,000,000.

On page 29, line 18, increase the amount by \$3,400,000,000.

On page 29, line 24, increase the amount by \$5,900,000,000.

On page 29, line 25, increase the amount by \$5,900,000,000.

On page 30, line 6, increase the amount by \$9,200,000,000.

On page 30, line 7, increase the amount by \$9,200,000,000.

On page 30, line 13, increase the amount by \$13,200,000,000.

On page 30, line 14, increase the amount by \$13,200,000,000.

On page 30, line 20, increase the amount by \$18,700,000,000.

On page 30, line 21, increase the amount by \$18,700,000,000.

On page 49, line 17, decrease the amount by \$100,000,000.

On page 49, line 18, decrease the amount by \$50,500,000,000.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I rise today in order to offer an amendment to restore \$50 billion to the Medicare Program. This amendment restores \$50 billion by closing corporate loopholes and by extending expired tax provisions already included in the Republican budget.

Mr. President, we are back again trying to make sure that the Medicare Program is not gutted to pay for tax cuts for the wealthy. This is where we were a year ago. This is where we are again now. My colleagues on the other side of the aisle have tried to dress up their budget. They are proposing all kinds of fancy maneuvers and 3 separate budget packages. They are pretending their latest budget is somehow kinder and gentler. But there is really not much new here compared to what we had last year. They lost the budget battle last year with the American